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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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**TRANSMITTAL  
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/520,746
		Filing Date	January 7, 2005
		First Named Inventor	Fangmeier et al.
		Art Unit	Not Yet Known
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	SMB-PT126 (PC 03 446 B US)

**ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <b>English Translation of IPER</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement		<input type="checkbox"/> Remarks
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

Firm Name	VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C.		
Signature			
Printed name	Randolph J. Huis		
Date	8/23/2005	Reg. No.	34,626

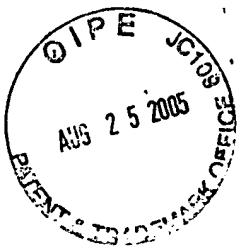
**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Randolph J. Huis	Date	8/23/2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



**PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Fangmeier et al.

**Application No.:** 10/520,746

**Filed:** January 7, 2005

For: SANITARY FITTING

Group: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Our File: SMB-PT126  
(PC 03 446 B US)

Date: August 23, 2005

**TRANSMITTAL OF TRANSLATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

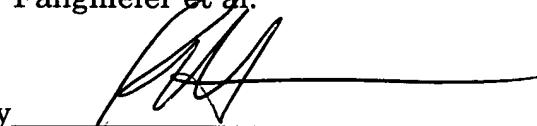
Further to Applicant's Duty of Disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, enclosed is the translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report from the corresponding International Application. All of the noted references or their English language equivalents were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement.

Prompt examination of the Application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Fangmeier et al.

By \_\_\_\_\_

  
Randolph J. Huis  
Registration No. 34,626  
(215) 568-6400

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RJH/dmm  
Enclosure

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

**PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL  
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY  
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II)  
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)  
(PCT Rule 72.2)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)  
21 July 2005 (21.07.2005)

To:

MAUCHER, Wolfgang  
Dreikönigstrasse 13  
79102 Freiburg i. Br.  
ALLEMAGNE

27.07.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
PC 03 446 B

**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**

International application No.  
PCT/EP2003/013910

International filing date (day/month/year)  
09 December 2003 (09.12.2003)

Applicant

NEOPERL GMBH et al

**1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.**

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

**2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.**

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

AZ, CA, CH, CN, GH, KG, KP, KR, MK, MZ, RU, TM

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MN, MW, MX, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

**3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).**

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Ellen Moyse

Facsimile No.+41 22 740 14 35

Facsimile No.+41 22 338 89 75

Translation

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2003/013910

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PC 03 446 B	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPBA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP2003/013910	International filing date (day/month/year) 09 December 2003 (09.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 10 December 2002 (10.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E03C 1/10, F16K 15/06, 47/02		
Applicant NEOPERL GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 7 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19 May 2004 (19.05.2004)	Date of completion of this report 27 October 2004 (27.10.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/013910

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:<sup>\*</sup>

- the international application as originally filed  
 the description:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1, 5-10 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ 2, 3, 4, 4a \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of 16 October 2004 (16.10.2004)

- the claims:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-9 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand

- the drawings:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2-2/2 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_  
 the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
 the drawings, sheets/fig. \_\_\_\_\_

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP 03/13910

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations

## Citations

D1: DE 198 34 902 A (GUTZEIT THEODOR) 11 February  
1999 (1999-02-11)

- 1) D1, which is considered the closest prior art, discloses a sanitary fitting with a double-walled housing, the inner housing wall being designed as a membrane consisting of a flexible material.
- 2) The subject matter of claim 1 differs therefore from that of D1 in the radial arrangement of the flexible housing wall relative to the rigid housing wall and the associated mode of operation in the event of pressure compensation.
- 3) The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of producing a sanitary fitting as described above that can be inserted into a sanitary water pipe in a fluid-tight manner using simple means.
- 4) The flexible housing wall of D1 is situated, in contrast to that of claim 1 of the application, radially on the inside. The fluid-tight use of the

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/13910

fitting shown in D1 in a sanitary water pipe is not readily possible. In addition, as a result of the externally arranged, flexible housing wall according to claim 1, the mode of operation of the fitting as per the invention differs in the event of pressure compensation from the mode of operation of D1 in the manner described in the last seven lines of claim 1.

- 5) None of the citations discloses a solution as per claim 1 or suggests combining two or more disclosures so as to arrive at the claimed invention. The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore inventive, as is the subject matter of dependent claims 2 to 9.

**Note**

The present claim 1 is based on the original claim 1 in combination with the original claim 2 and on page 3, paragraph 1 of the original description.